

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) released the following statement in advance of tonight's scheduled "speak out" on the University of Maryland campus to discuss the possible hate crime incident on campus.

"I commend the organizers of tonight's 'speak out' to give the campus community a forum to vocalize and share their thoughts regarding the reported hate crime incident on the University of Maryland campus.

"I wish to add my voice to the chorus of those who will take this opportunity to reaffirm our resolve in stamping out all forms of discrimination and injustice in our community.

"I, along with you, am deeply committed to enforcing the zero tolerance policy that applies to any act that is meant to harass, denigrate, threaten or discriminate against any individual or group of people. Such acts are disgraceful, particularly on a college campus, where diversity - of ideas and of people - is an essential component of the higher education experience.

"As citizens who value the principles of equality, justice, and respect for our neighbors, we must take a strong stand against acts of hate and discrimination of all forms, and renew our commitment to our common goals of peace, understanding and preserving the proud tradition of diversity for which the University of Maryland is known."

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